

CONDEMNATION OF PRESIDENT WILSON
39?

the people is that a bad colonel always makes
a bad regi-
ment. If, the day after the firing on Sumter,
Lincoln had
stated that he was too proud to fight and if
he had then
carried on a four-months¹ correspondence
with Jefferson
Davis, well written from the rhetorical
standpoint but with-
out a deed to back any word, and if Howard
had resigned
because these notes were too stiff, by
midsummer of '61
the northerners as a whole would have said
that Oreeley
was quite right and they would let the erring
sisters go.
Yet even then I think somebody would have
rounded them in
the end. I have done everything I can to
rouse them. I
have the skeleton of a division already
outlined, with ac-
ceptances from my Chief of Staff, my brigade
commanders,
colonels, etc. My three sons have been in
camp at Platts-
burg under General Wood this summer."

That he believed sincerely at this time that
the course
he was taking was unpopular because of the
anti-war senti-
ment of the country at large, is shown in his
letters, a few
of which are appended:

September 3,
1915,

To Oeorffe W. Perkins, New York City: "It is
my de-
liberate judgment that if the Republicans ever
come to
entertain the thought of nominating me next
year, it will
be because they know they will be defeated
under me and
intend that I shall receive the heaviest defeat
they can give
me, and they will nominate me with this
purpose in view,
thereby not only crushing the Progressives but
definitely

getting rid of me and enthroning the
standpatters in the
Republican party.

¹¹ It is perfectly evident to me that this
people have made
up their minds not only against the policies in
which I be-
lieve but finally against me personally. The
bulk of them
are convinced that I am actuated by motives of
personal am-
bition and that I am selfishly desirous of
hurting Taft ami
Wilson and have not the good of the country
at heart,
Anything that you or any of my other close
friends do that
can be construed into putting me forward for
the Presi-
dency will absolutely confirm this opinion and
will do me